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History of Ohio: the Rise and Progress of an American State. By EMILIUS O. RANDALL and DANIEL J. RYAN. In five volumes. (New York: The Century History Company. 1912. Pp. xix, 496; xx, 600; xviii, 455; xiii, 541; ix, 447.)

THE publishers of these five pretentious volumes about Ohio have done their part well. They have provided an attractive binding, excellent paper, a pleasing font of type, and an abundance of illustrative material, largely, however, in the form of pictures of many of the distinguished men who played a part in the making of the commonwealth. Their work deserves mention first because it stamps the character of the volumes. These were written largely with the purpose of magnifying Ohio and its great citizens rather than with the idea of furnishing that impartial and critical analysis of men and of measures demanded of the modern historian. The secondary title, *The Rise and Progress of an American State*, is the better one. There is plenty of material to illustrate that. As a collection of papers about Ohio and Ohioans the five volumes have great interest. They will be read with eager satisfaction by all who claim any share in the state pride felt by those who count Ohio their home commonwealth. And of such there is a myriad.

Viewed from the physical side alone the history is disappointing in its make-up. There is a lack of those features which have become so important in the minds of specialists. There is no separate bibliography of Ohio history. Where references are given they are embodied in the text. Foot-notes are not used. Essential statements and anecdotal material of relatively slight importance alike find place in the narrative. In some places lists of one sort or another occupy much space, where the relegation to an inconspicuous foot-note would answer every need. Biographical sketches are introduced frequently in connection with the story of the part played by the individual. These things are mentioned not as criticisms but as further illustrations of the statement that the *History* was prepared for the general reader, proud of his state's heritage, rather than for students of history.

The inevitable weakness of joint authorship is apparent. There is no master mind which has studied the whole period of Ohio history as a unit in itself and as a part of the larger story of American national life. This impression is emphasized by the use of the topical method of treatment, the fifth volume, indeed, being made up of a series of articles on special subjects, contributed by half a dozen writers. All through the work there are evidences of the want of co-ordination and condensation. Even when the separate essays are well developed they seem to be strung together instead of being woven into a continuous story of cumulative progress. There is an abundance of material for history-making without the finished product itself. The volumes are not well balanced. More space is devoted to prehistoric times and to the Indian history preceding statehood than is given to the century of effective endeavor commemorated by the *History*, during which Ohio gained prominent place in the sisterhood of states.

The contribution of Mr. Randall is found in the first two volumes, which treat of events in Ohio before the state was formed. His intimate knowledge of this period, gained through years of painstaking service as a careful historian and editor, is apparent. He has used the available material to good advantage. He has assembled in compact and convenient form the testimonies of those whose personal experiences in the Ohio valley have been recorded in journals of great original value. His desire to make the story both reliable and readable has been realized. Barring the criticism already made that too much space, relatively, is given to this part of the *History*, the initial volumes are commended for their interest and careful preparation.

Mr. Ryan's field is that of Ohio as a state. The third and fourth volumes are devoted to this century of growth and development. The materials are not so well organized as in the first two books and it is here that the exploitation of individual citizens at times appears too dominant. In places the text is strongly suggestive of the county history written for sale to those whose virtues are duly recorded therein. Things are mentioned as facts but the relation of those facts to the political, social, and economic development of the commonwealth, particularly as a member of a confederation of commonwealths, is not always shown in a satisfactory way. Ohio has long been known for the number and the excellence of its educational institutions. But there is entirely inadequate treatment of these in their connection with the shaping of the religious and social character of the state. The meeting and mixing of race elements from New England and from the South, with their influence upon civil, social, and religious history, does not find that examination rightly to be expected in a present-day story of state evolution. The same weakness is evident when the reader seeks for an interpretation of the political forces which have operated to give Ohio so prominent a place in the affairs of the larger nation of which it is a part. As a collector of materials Mr. Ryan has been more successful than as a keen analyzer of men, motives, and measures.

All these criticisms aside, however, this centennial *History of Ohio* will appeal strongly to state pride and will satisfy those for whom primarily it was written. It is a story of achievement with many a page of far more than ordinary interest and attractiveness.

FRANCIS W. SHEPARDSON.

Economic Beginnings of the Far West: how We Won the Land beyond the Mississippi. By KATHARINE COMAN. In two volumes. (New York: The Macmillan Company. 1912. Pp. xix, 418; 450.)

ANY history of the occupation of the trans-Mississippi West must be primarily economic, whatever its title, since the first need of the pioneers was to eat and live. Professor Coman's new book on this theme confesses itself to be a treatise on economic history, but with slight altera-